

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 55

14p

TARGET EARTH

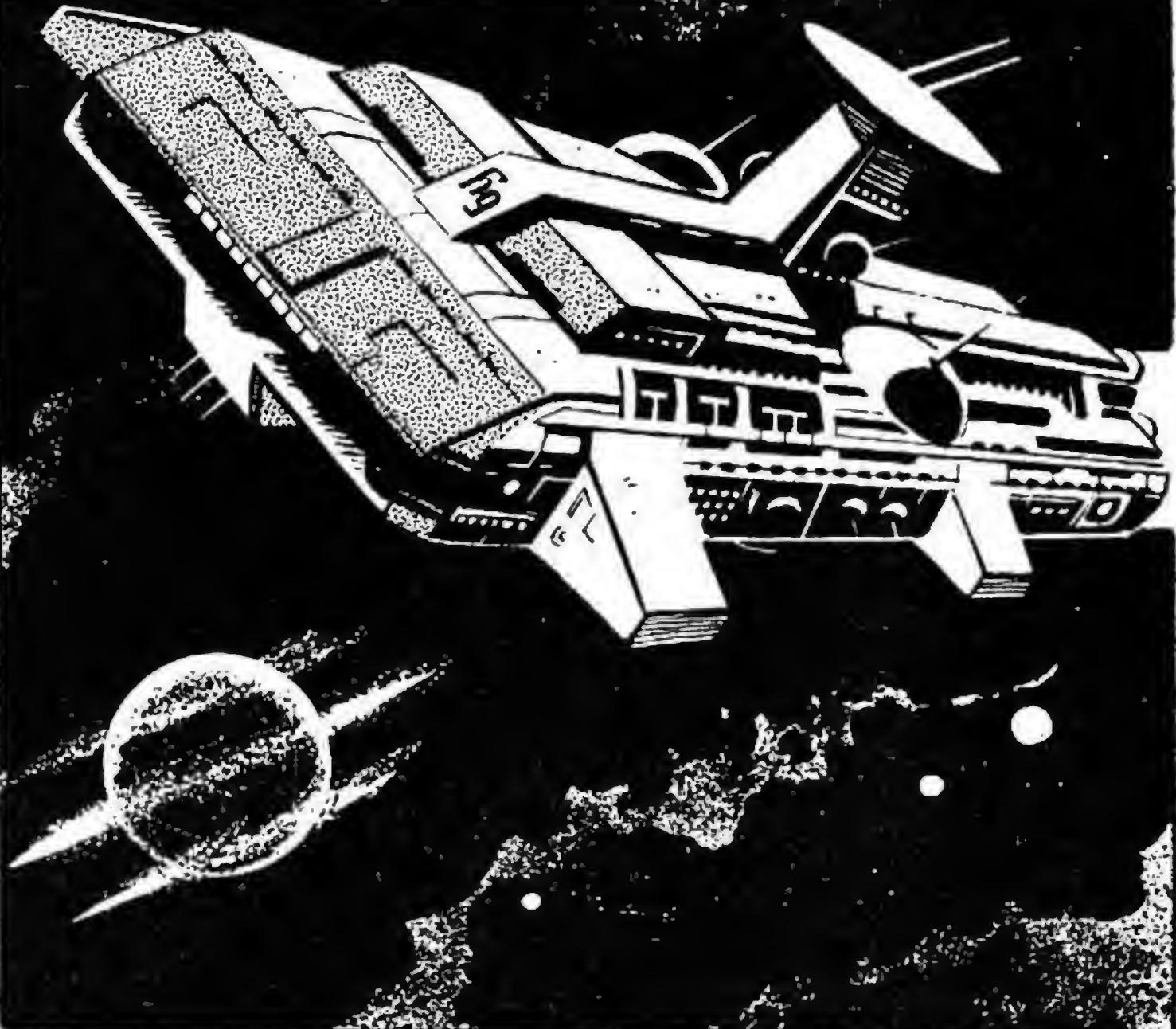
STARBLAZER

AS EARTH'S EXPLORATION THROUGH SPACE ADVANCED, NOT A SINGLE INTELLIGENT LIFEFORM WAS DISCOVERED. UNINHABITED WORLDS WERE TERRA-FORMED AND EVENTUALLY COLONISED BY SETTLERS FROM EARTH. AFTER A MILLENIUM OF COLONISATION THE FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A LIFEFORM TOOK PLACE, AND IT WAS A NIGHTMARE. THE HORDES FROM CETUS GALAXY RAVAGED COLONIES AND TRANSPORTED THE INHABITANTS BACK TO CETUS TO WORK IN LIFE-SAPPING CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH THE PRISONERS WERE FROM DIFFERENT PLANETS, THEY HAD ONE COMMON BOND — THEY ALL HAD THEIR ORIGINS WITH PLANET EARTH, NOW A DIM AND DISTANT PIECE OF LEGEND.



TARGET EARTH

A CETIAN CARGO VESSEL WARPED A NEW BATCH OF PRISONERS TO CETUS IX.



4
INSIDE, A NEW BATCH OF ALLIED FEDERATION PRISONERS WERE LOCKED AND FETTERED IN CELLS.



AND I AM GALT. THIS CRAFT IS SO
RAMSHACKLE WE COULD BREAK
OUT.



HUMANS! REFRAIN FROM USING THAT
ACCURSED LANGUAGE.



WHY WON'T THEY LET US
USE THE TERRAN TONGUE?

BECAUSE IT'S THE LANGUAGE
OF OUR GALAXY—A
GALAXY THEY WANT TO
DOMINATE.



YOU MEAN THE EARTH EMPIRE?

YES—ALTHOUGH WE LIVE ON WORLDS MANY LIGHT
YEARS DISTANT FROM EARTH, AND HAVE NO CONTACT
WITH THE MOTHER PLANET, IT IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF
DEFEATING THE CETIANS. ALAS, THE CO-ORDINATES OF
EARTH ARE LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME.



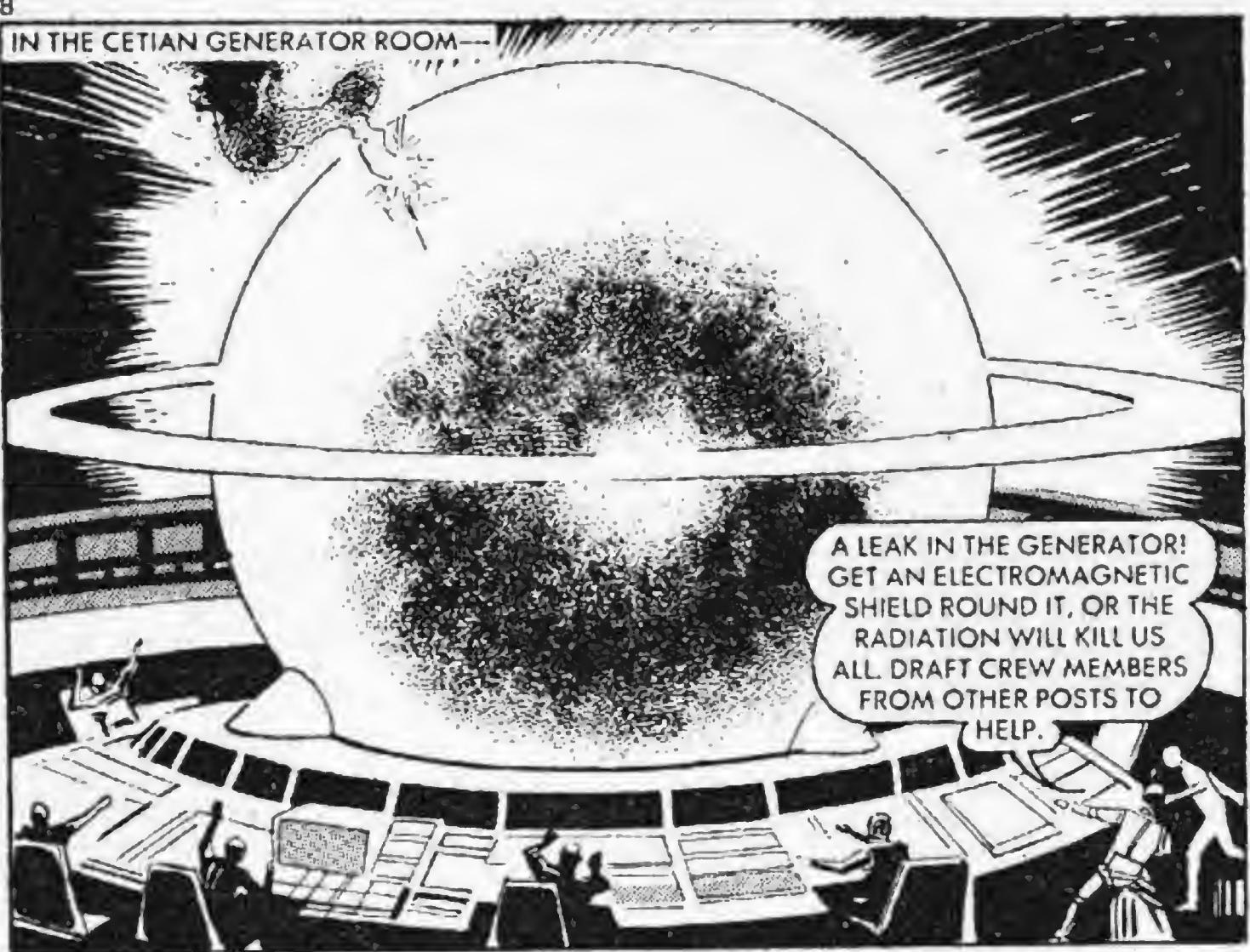
YES . . . IT IS STATED IN THE
GREAT BOOK, WRITTEN MANY CYCLES
AGO.



STOP USING THAT LANGUAGE.
NEXT TIME, SOME OF YOU WILL DIE!



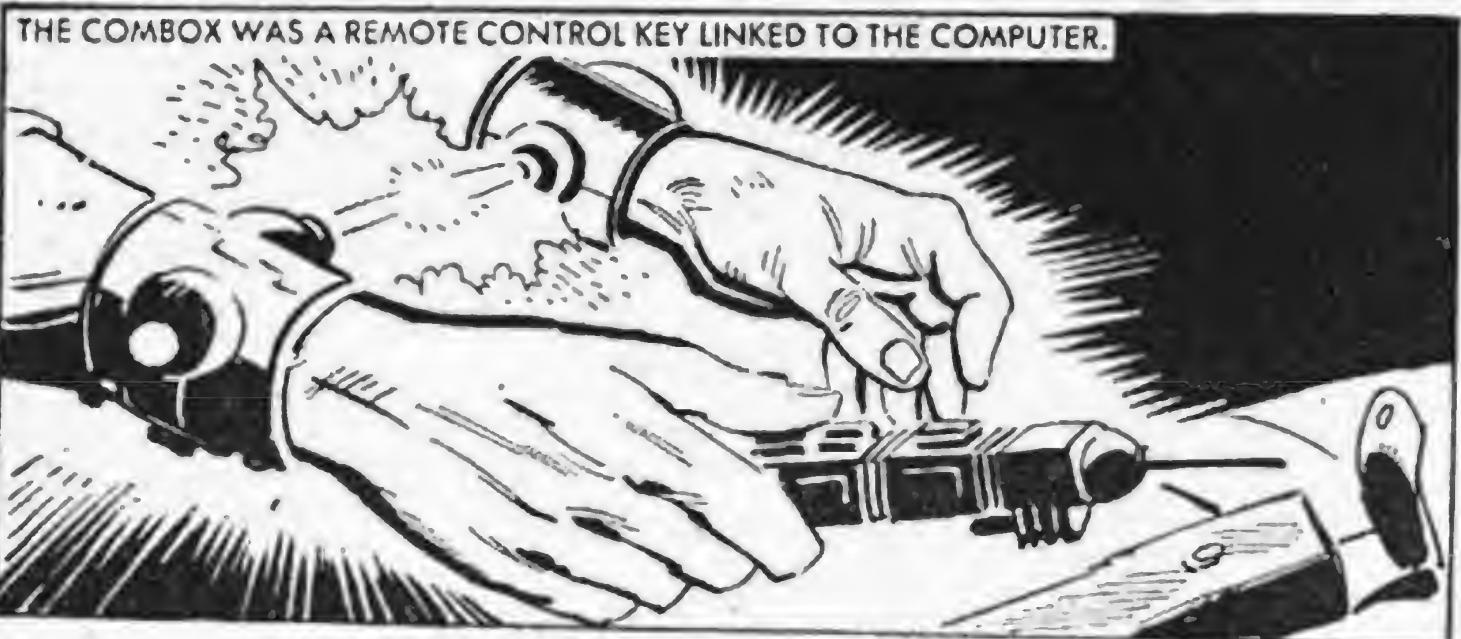
IN THE CETIAN GENERATOR ROOM—



THE PRISONERS WATCHED AS THEIR
GUARDS RESPONDED TO THE EMERGENCY
IN THE ENGINE ROOM.





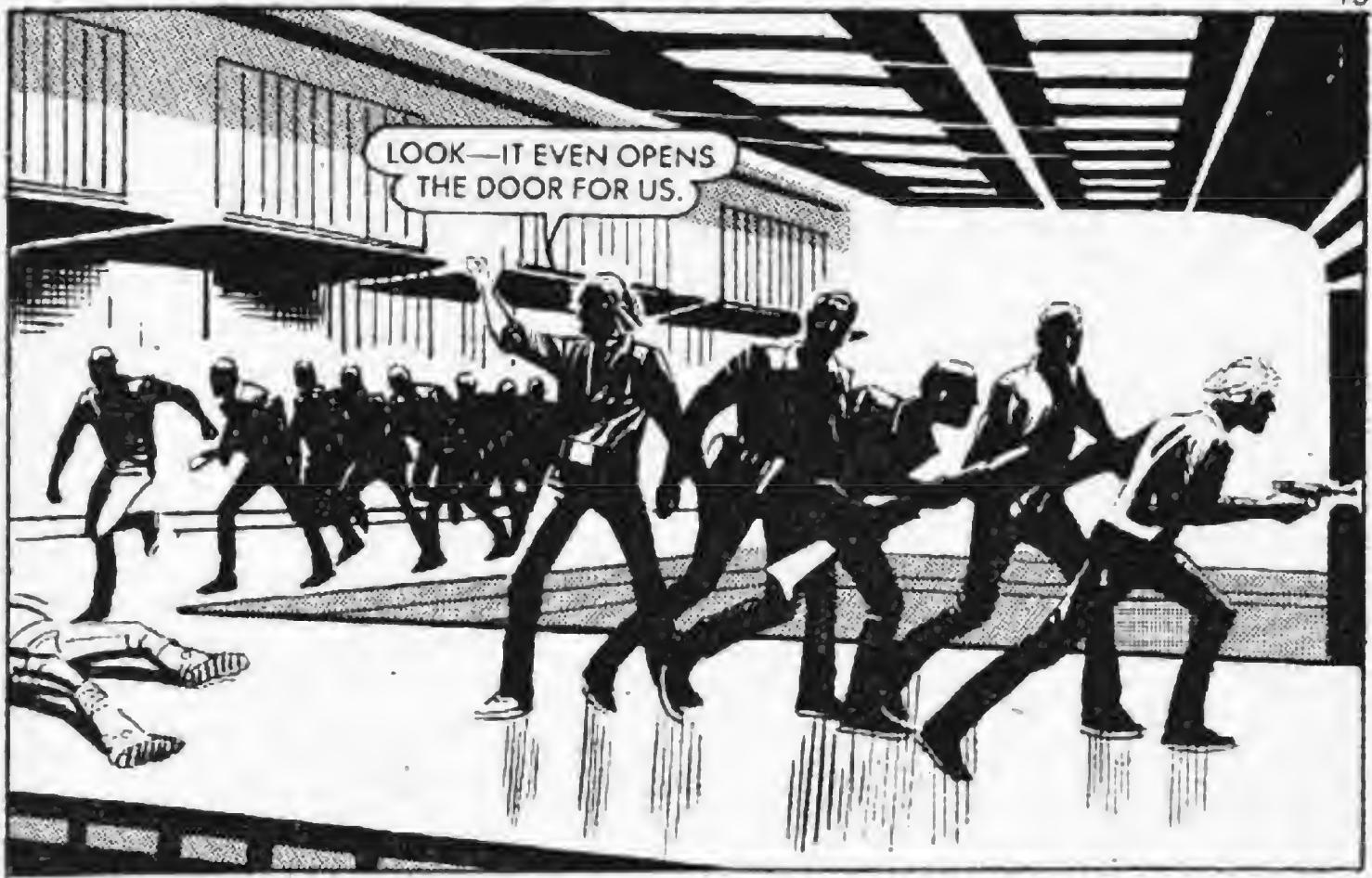






SPEAKING IN CETIAN, SOLA ASKED A QUESTION—

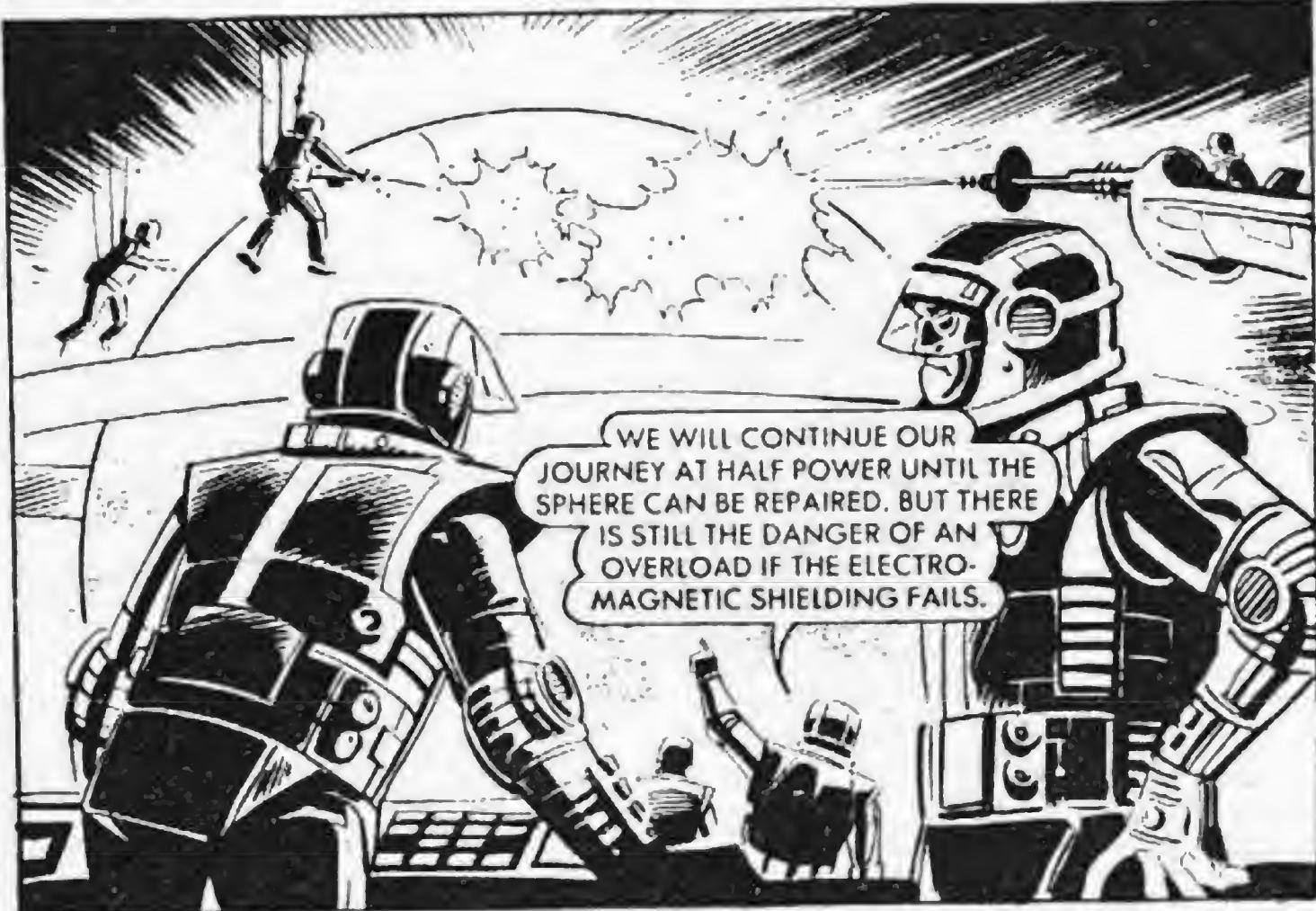






HAS THE RADIATION LEAK
BEEN CONTAINED?

YOU MAY PROCEED AT HALF POWER, SIR, BUT I
WILL STILL NEED AS MANY HANDS AS CAN BE
SPARED.



WE WILL CONTINUE OUR
JOURNEY AT HALF POWER UNTIL THE
SPHERE CAN BE REPAIRED. BUT THERE
IS STILL THE DANGER OF AN
OVERLOAD IF THE ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC SHIELDING FAILS.

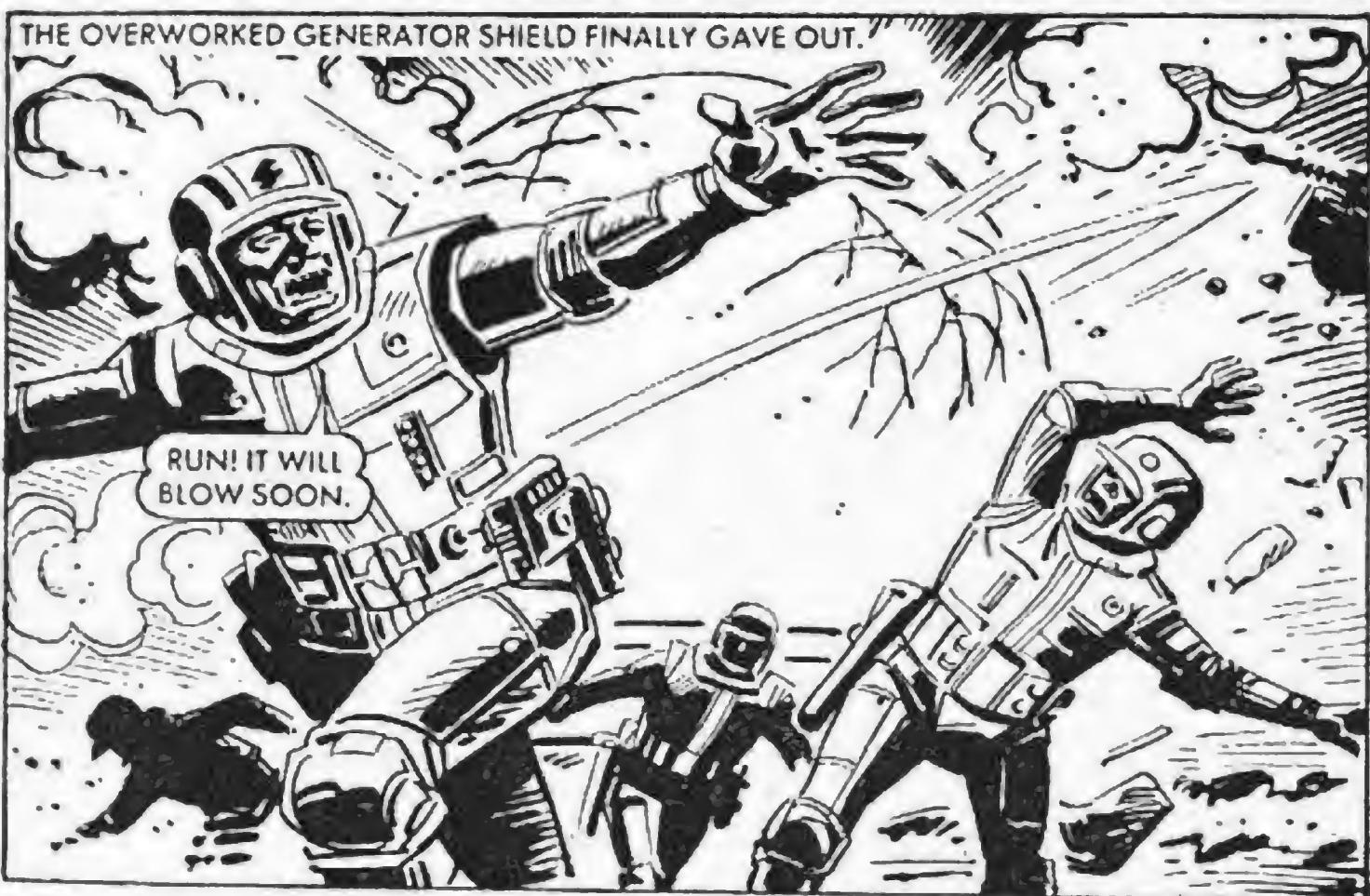
OBLIVIOUS TO THE CONDITION OF THE SHIP, THE ESCAPED PRISONERS PLANNED TO TAKE IT OVER.

SPACE KNOWS WHERE THE CETIAN GUARDS ARE.
ALL THE BETTER, BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO STORM THE BRIDGE.



THREE OF US WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO TAKE THE BRIDGE. THE OTHERS CAN GUARD THE ARMOURY AND LIFEBOATS—IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG.





DOWN BELOW DECKS—

THE PRISONERS . . .



ON THE BRIDGE—

LET THE MORONS BURN OUT THE GENERATORS!
WE'LL DRIFT RIGHT INTO ONE OF OUR PATROLS.FULL POWER, VANT, STEER
AWAY FROM CETUS.

TOTAL DRIVE ENGAGED.



GALT! I'M GETTING AN OVERLOAD
WARNING. THE GENERATOR MUST BE
DAMAGED. I'M CUTTING THE POWER,
BEFORE WE EXPLODE!

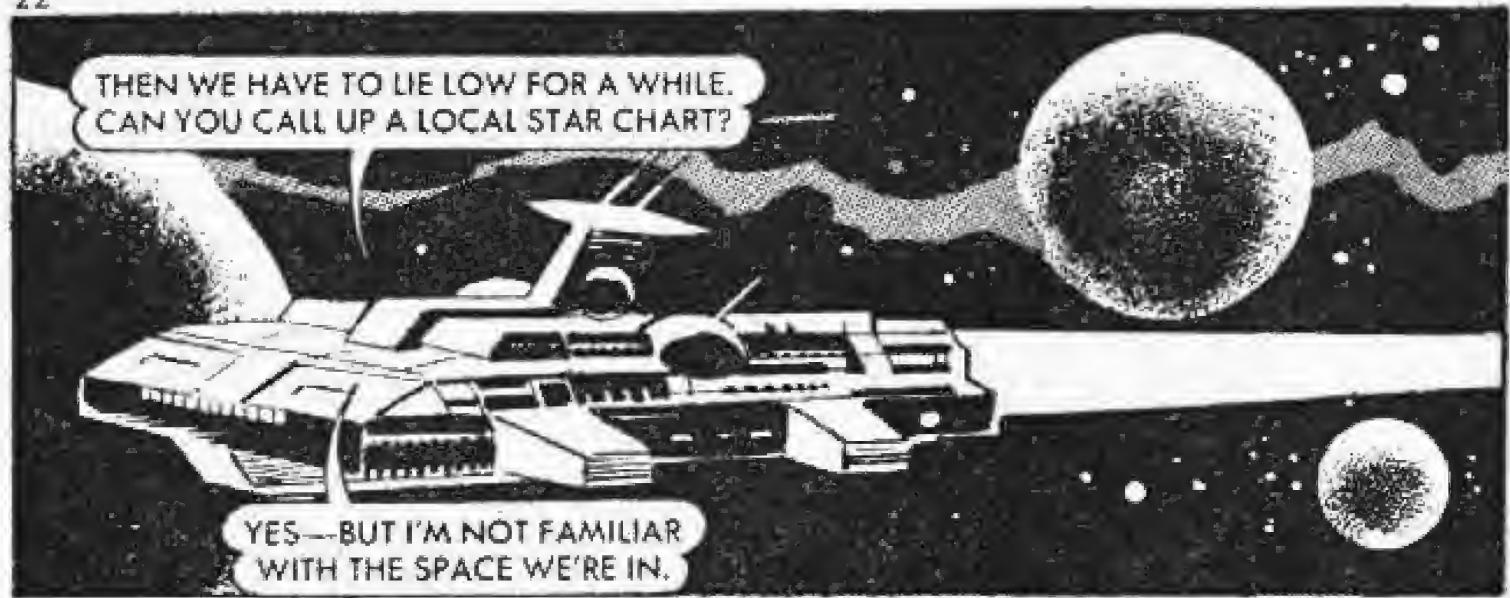
EVEN AS THE POWER WAS SWITCHED
OFF, THE GENERATOR BLEW.



STRIP ALL LIFEBOATS OF
COMMUNICATORS AND FUEL, AND
PUT THEM IN THERE. THEN
WE'LL EJECT THE BOATS. THAT
OUGHT TO SLOW UP ANY PATROL
SHIPS.

WHAT CHANCE OF
REPAIRING THE DAMAGE?

NONE! A SMALL EMERGENCY
GENERATOR IS KEEPING
EVERYTHING BUT THE ENGINE
WORKING, BUT IT WON'T LAST
LONG.





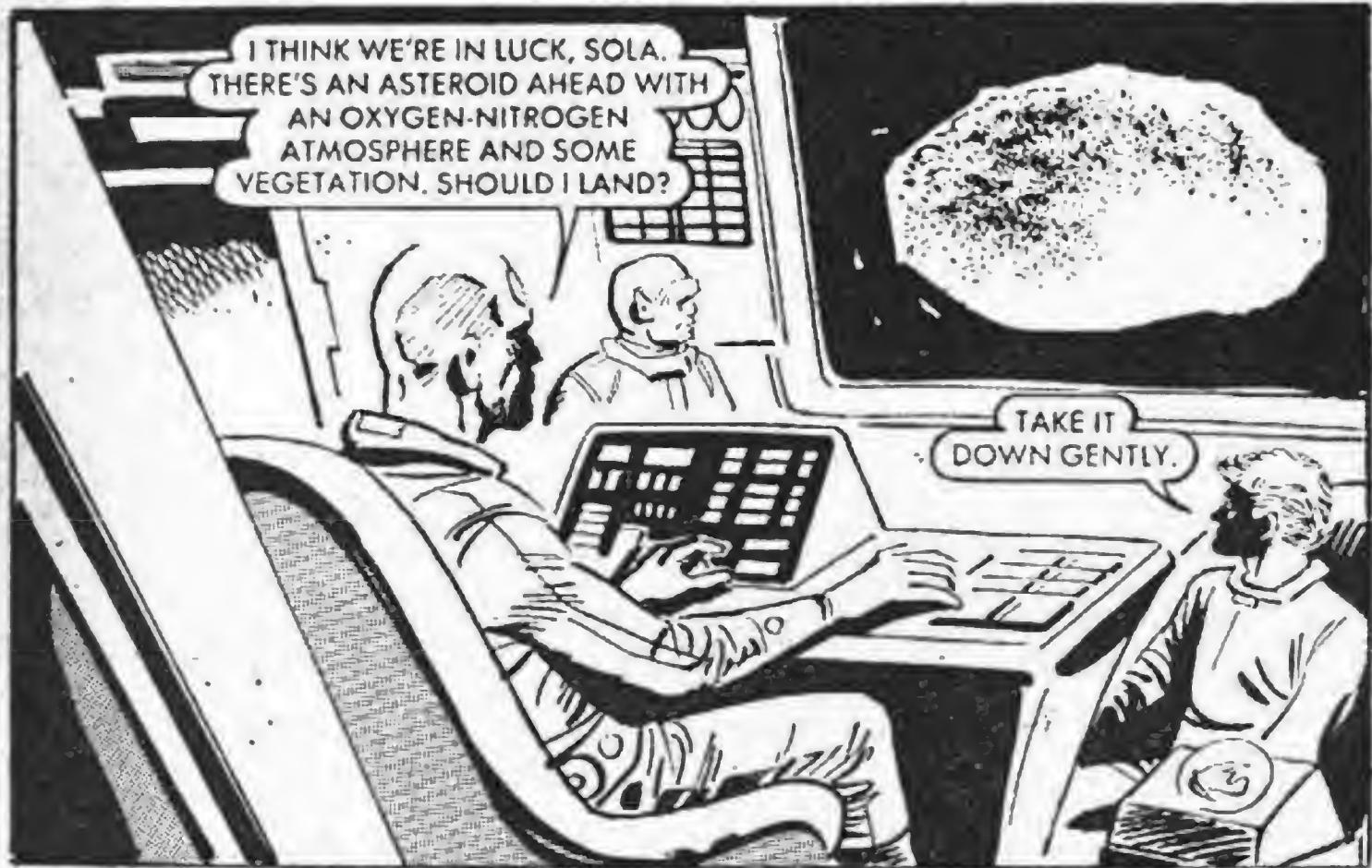
THE CETIAN CREW WERE ABANDONED AS VANT
MADE FOR THE SHELTER OF THE NEAR
ASTEROIDS.



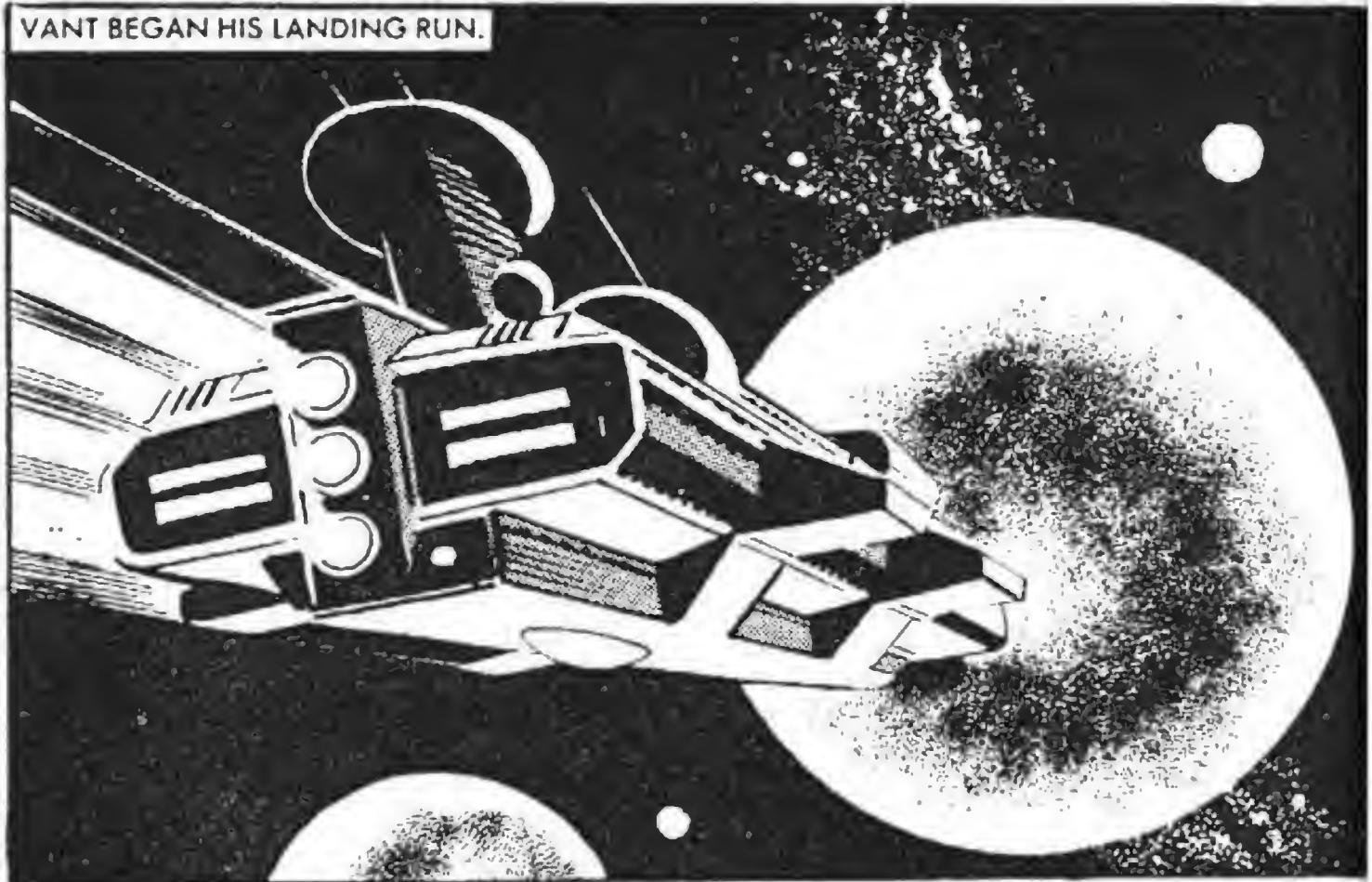
A CETIAN, OVERLOOKED IN THE
CONFUSION, MADE A FUTILE ATTEMPT
TO SAVE THE SHIP ...







VANT BEGAN HIS LANDING RUN.









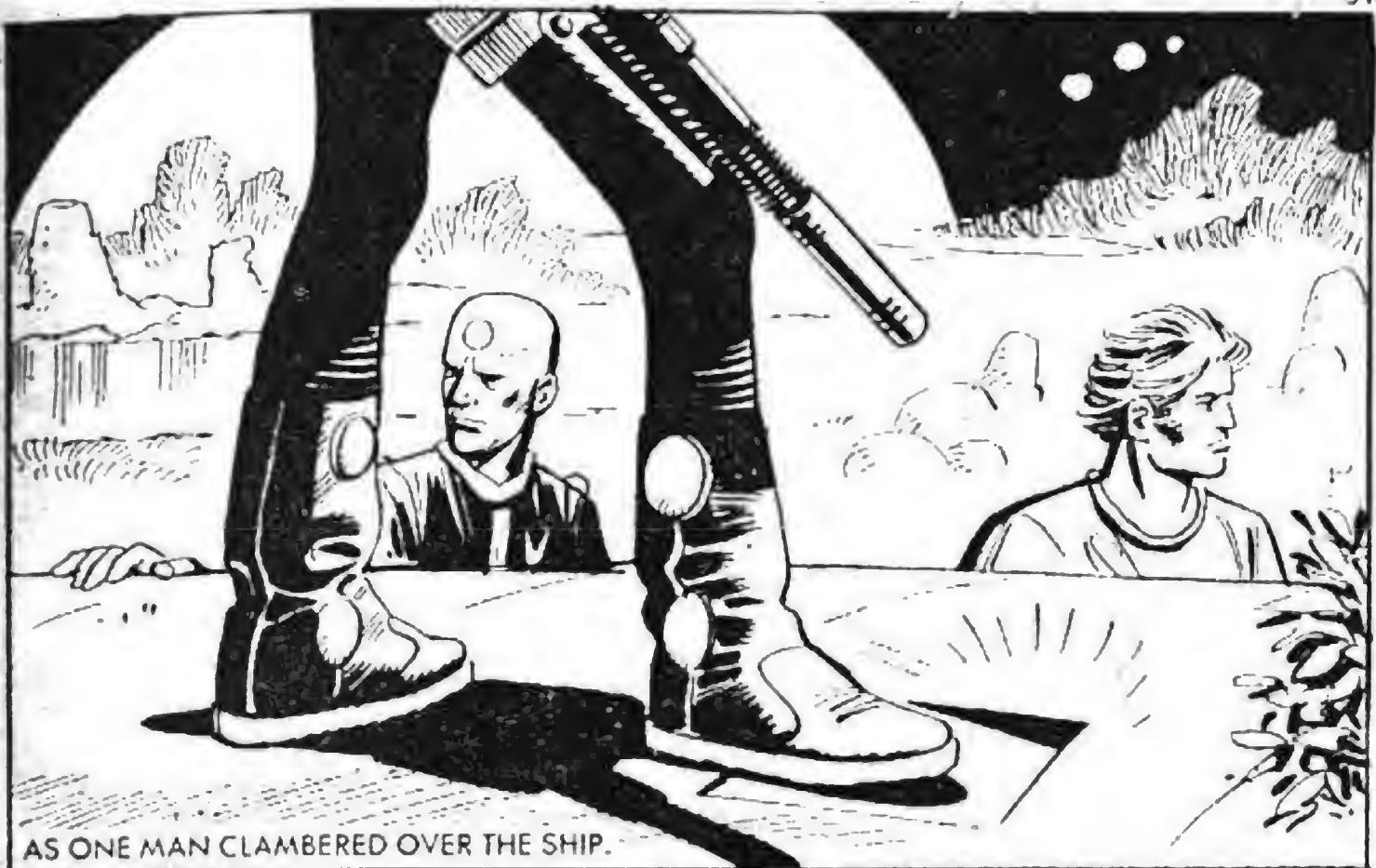
THE TRIO WARILY WENT TO INVESTIGATE





THEY EXAMINED THE OBJECT.















THE COMPUTER WANTS
TO SPEAK TO YOU.



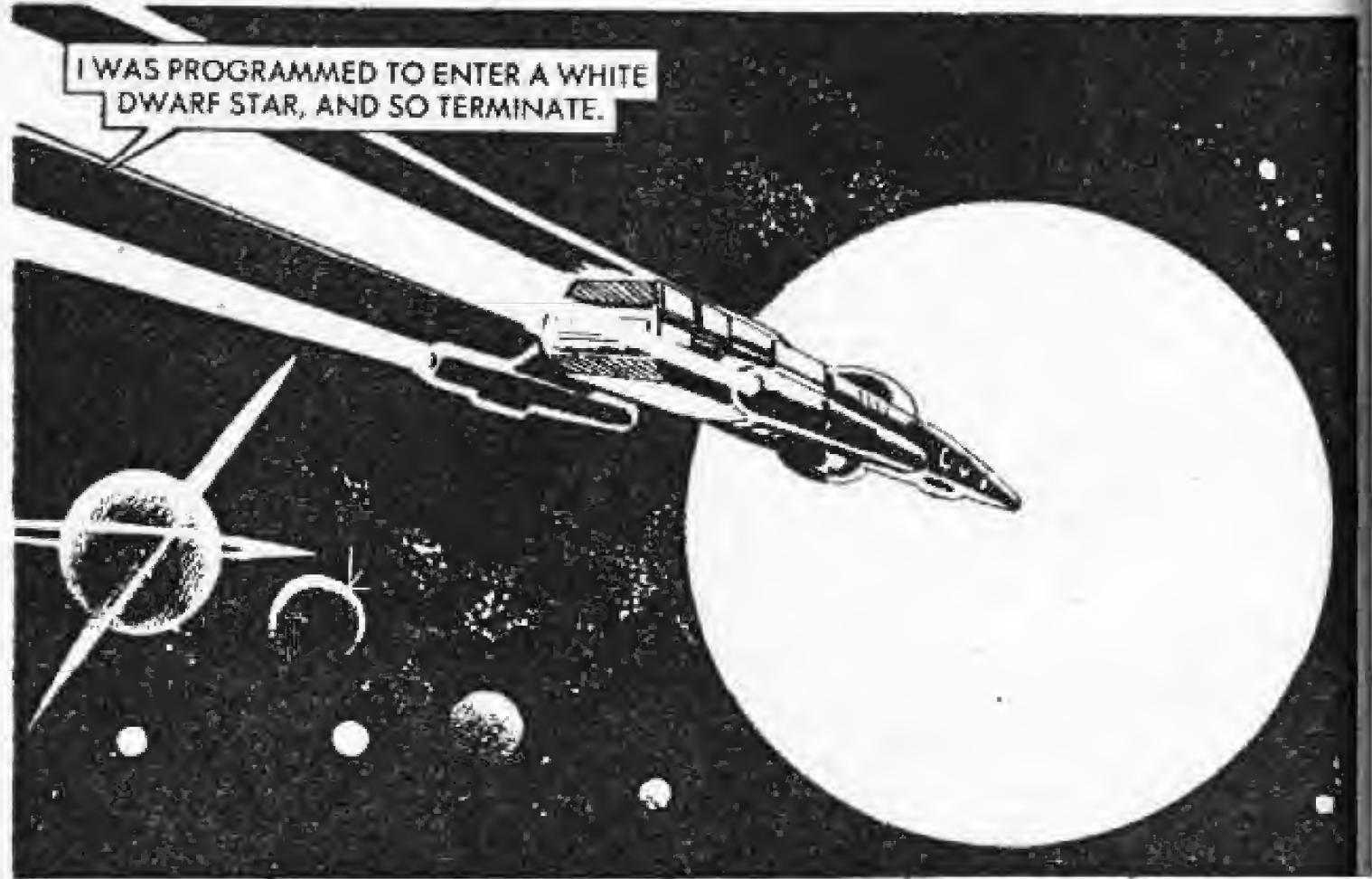
I AM THE CENTRAL COMPUTER OF
EARTH COLONY SHIP R102, LAUNCHED
IN 2082.

(c)





AFTER NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS SERVICE,
MY CLASS BECAME OBSOLETE AND WAS
DESIGNATED FOR DESTRUCTION.



I WAS PROGRAMMED TO ENTER A WHITE
DWARF STAR, AND SO TERMINATE.

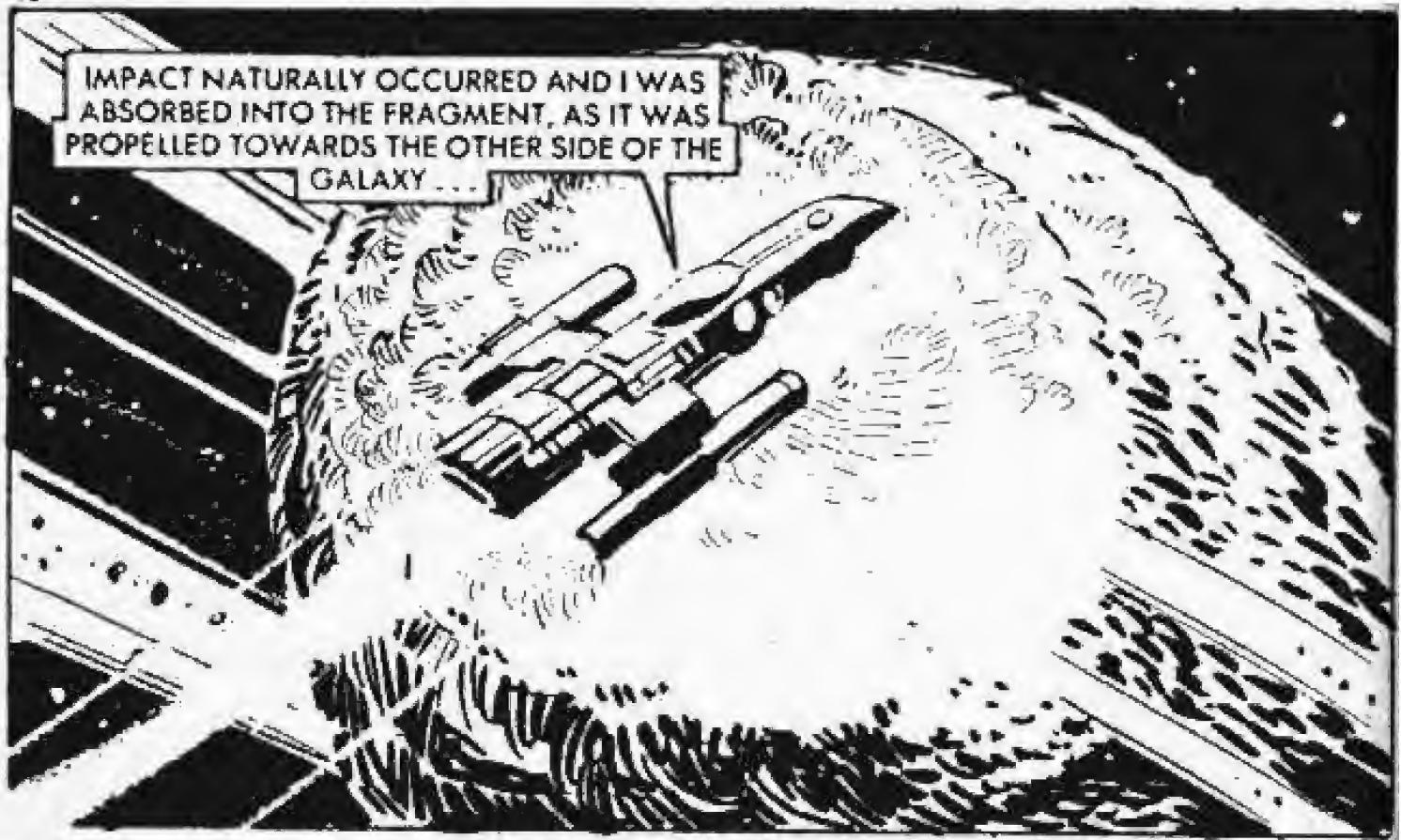
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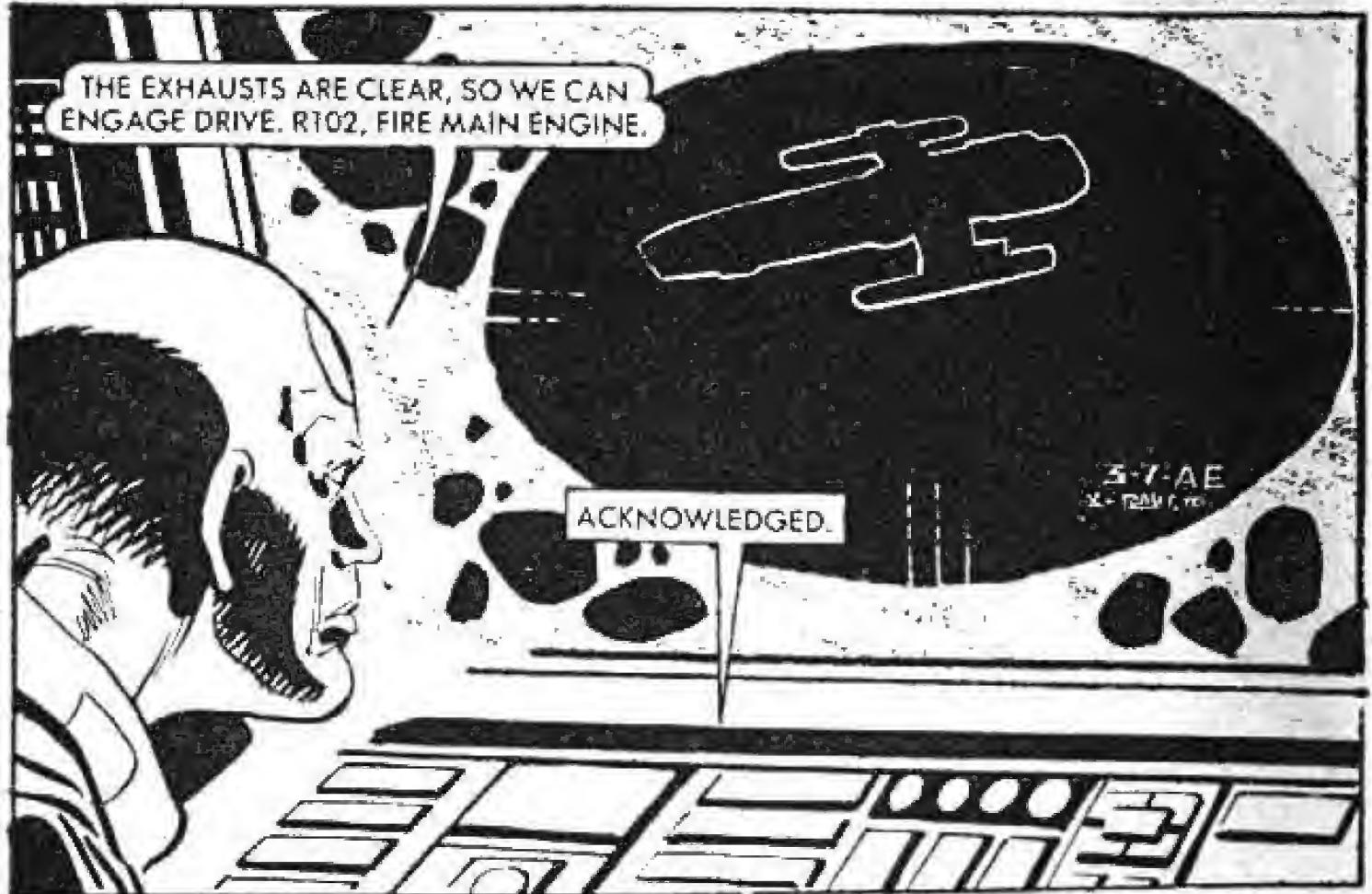
BUT THE STAR WENT NOVA BEFORE ARRIVAL, AND
THE PLANETARY SYSTEM DISSOLVED.



I WAS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH A LARGE
FRAGMENT OF THE FIRST PLANET, BUT HAD NO
PROGRAMMING TO TAKE EVASIVE ACTION.







AS R102, AFTER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, BEGAN TO MOVE, THE ASTEROID STARTED TO BREAK UP.

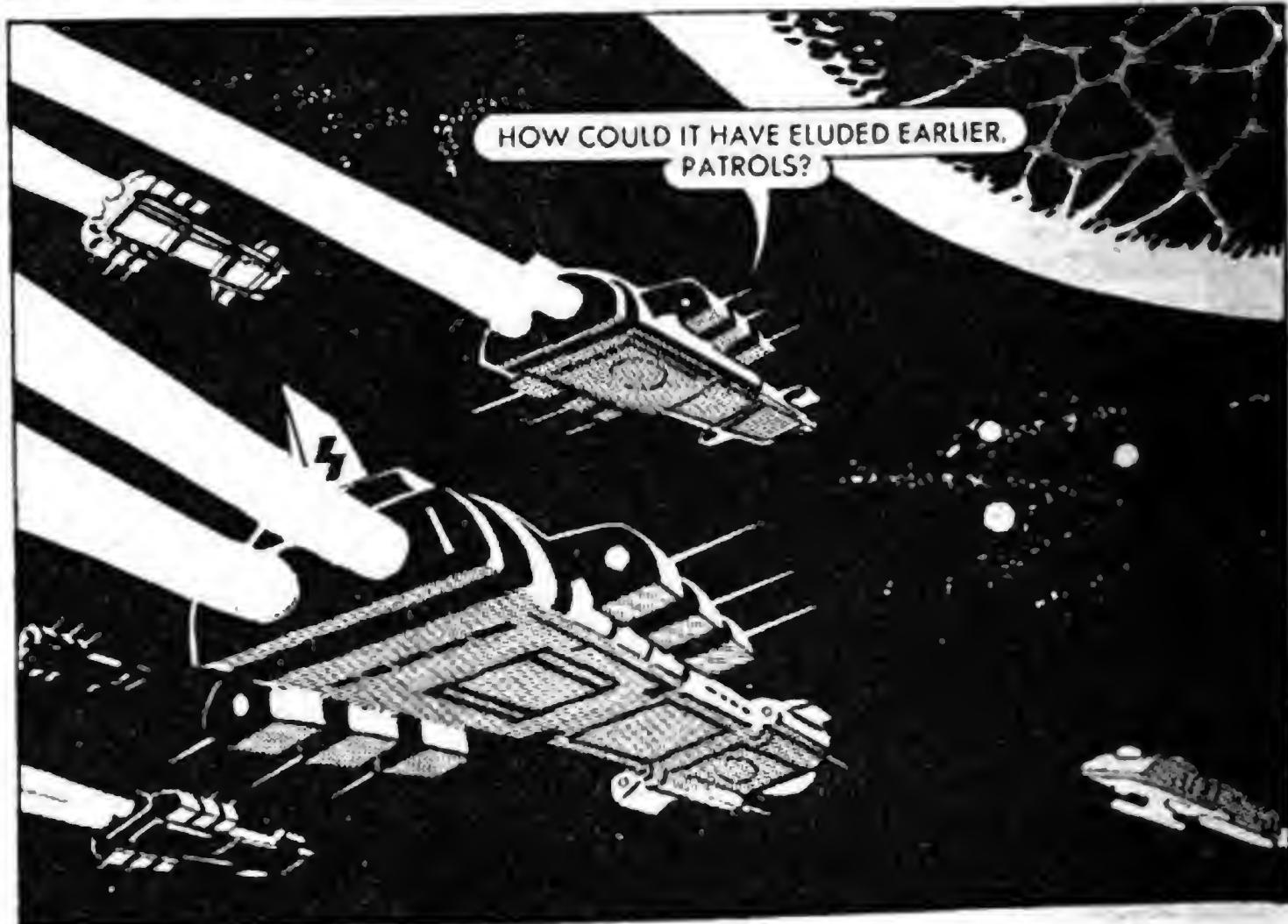
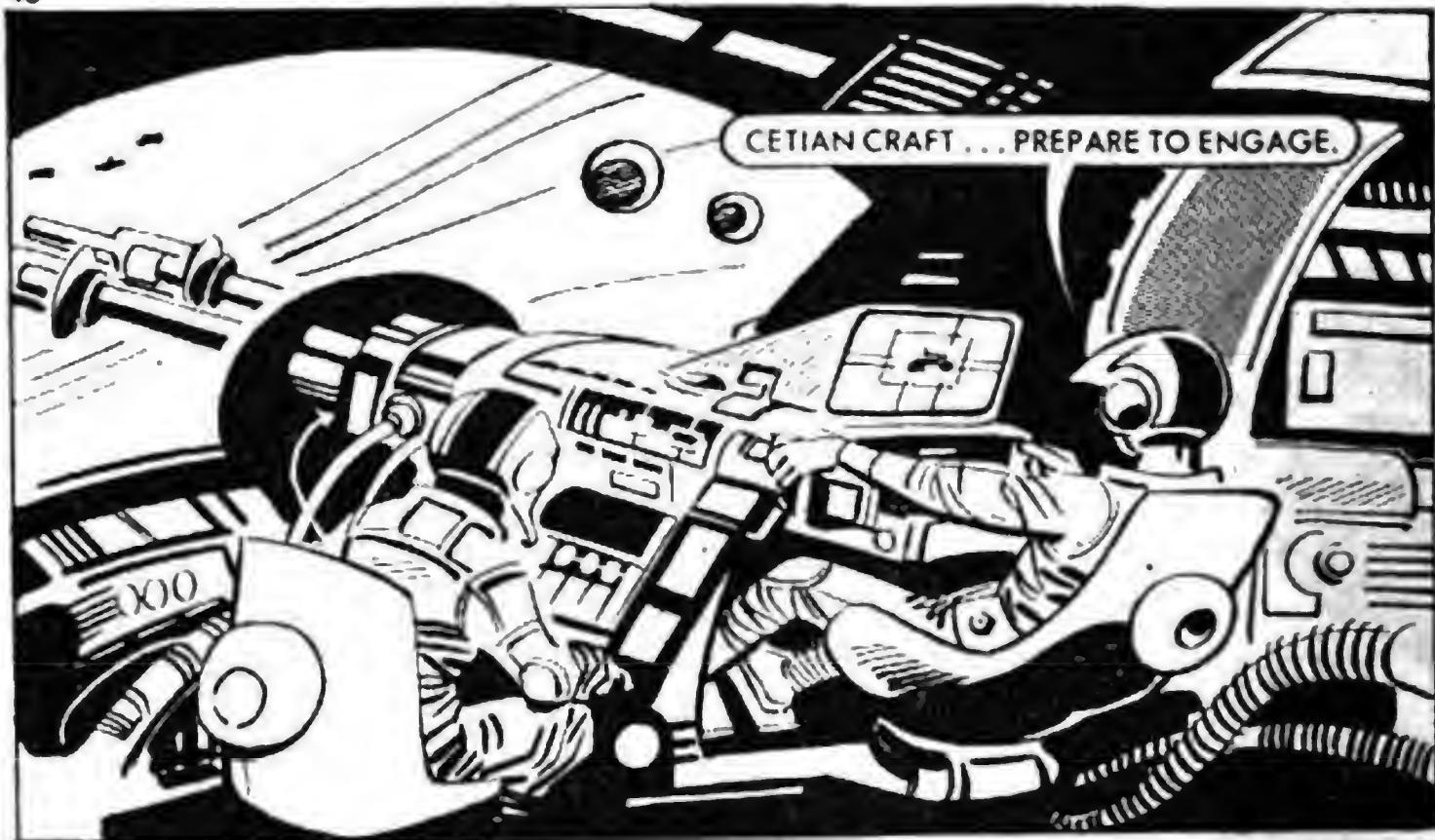


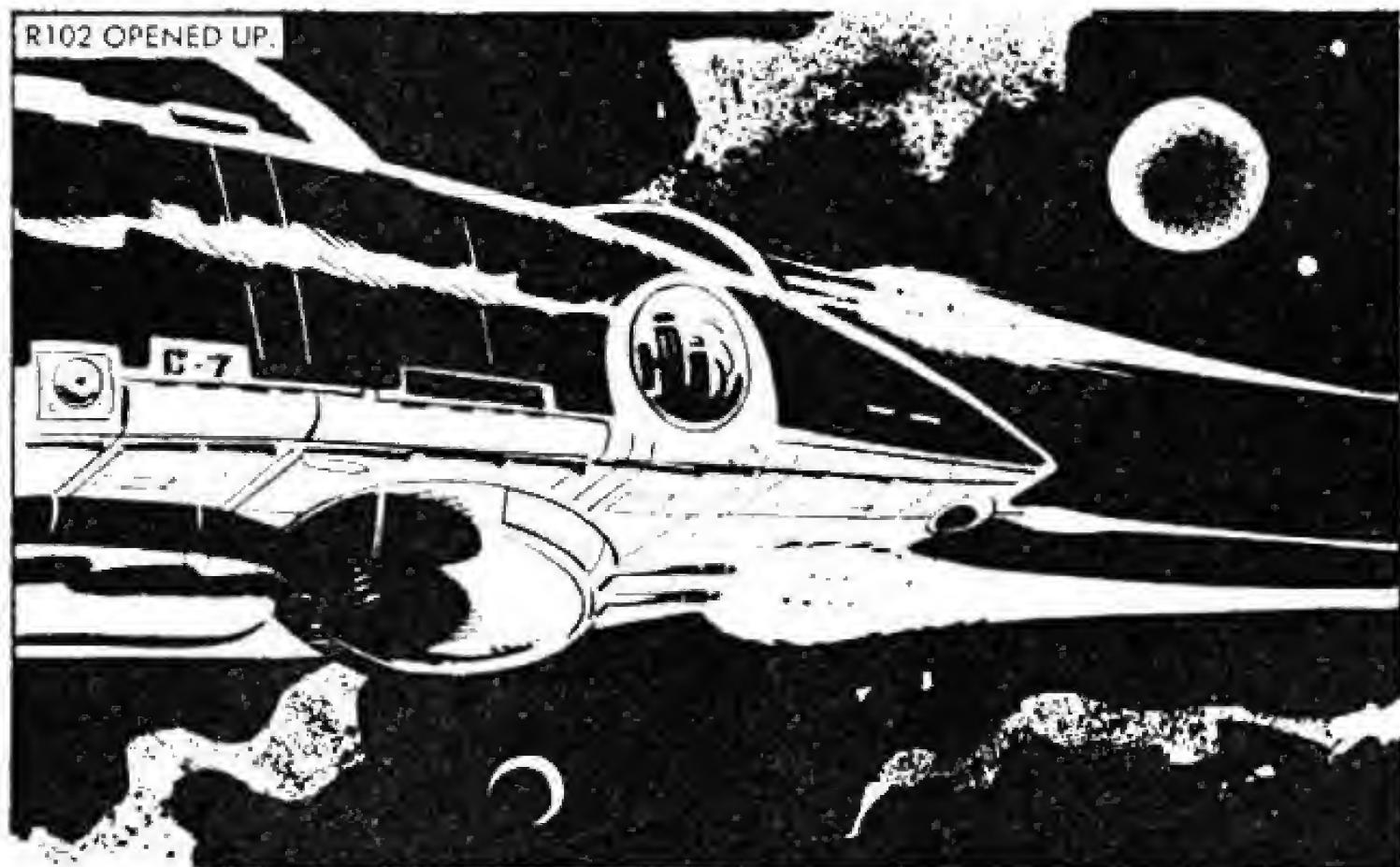
WE'RE FREE!







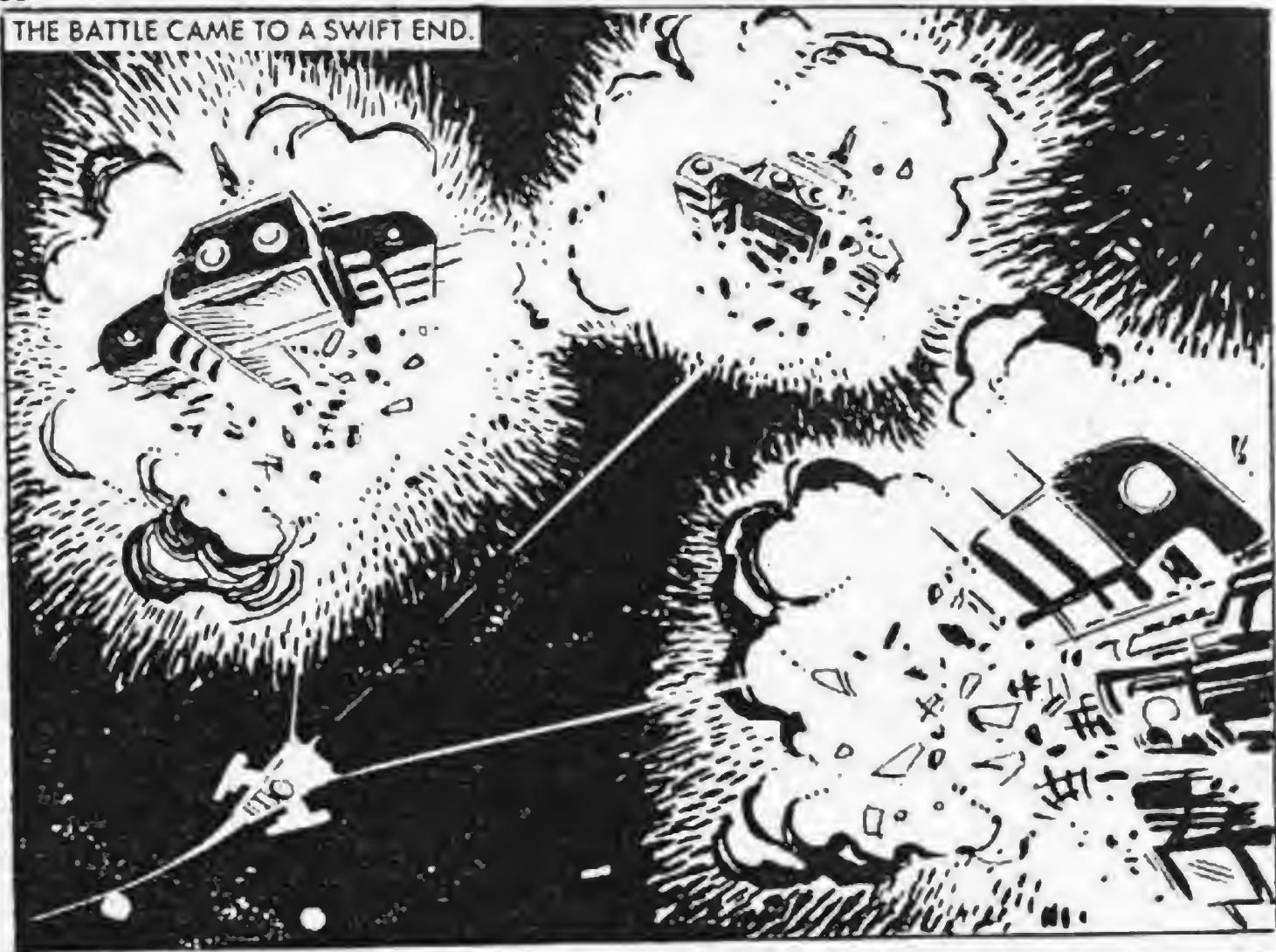






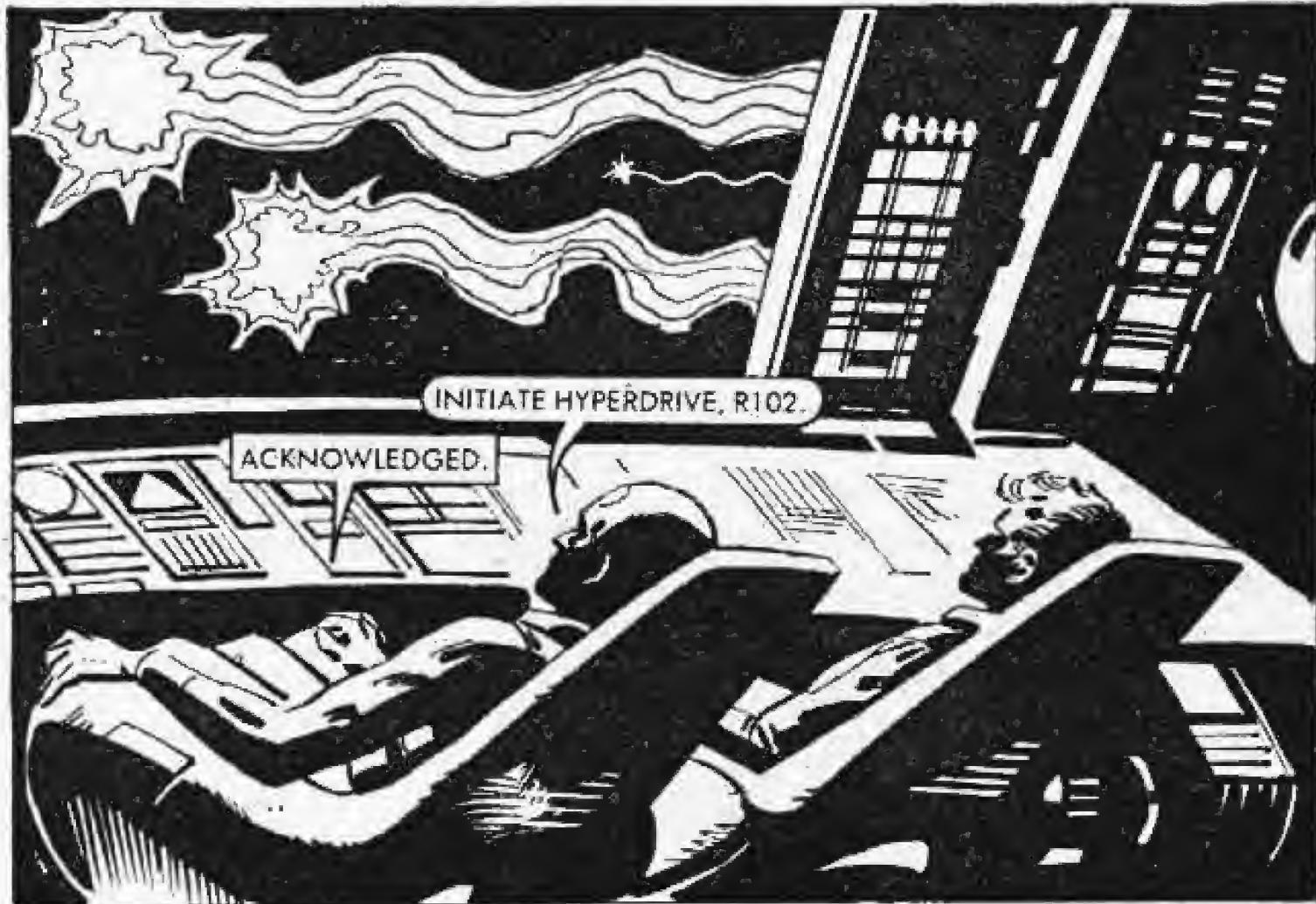


THE BATTLE CAME TO A SWIFT END.

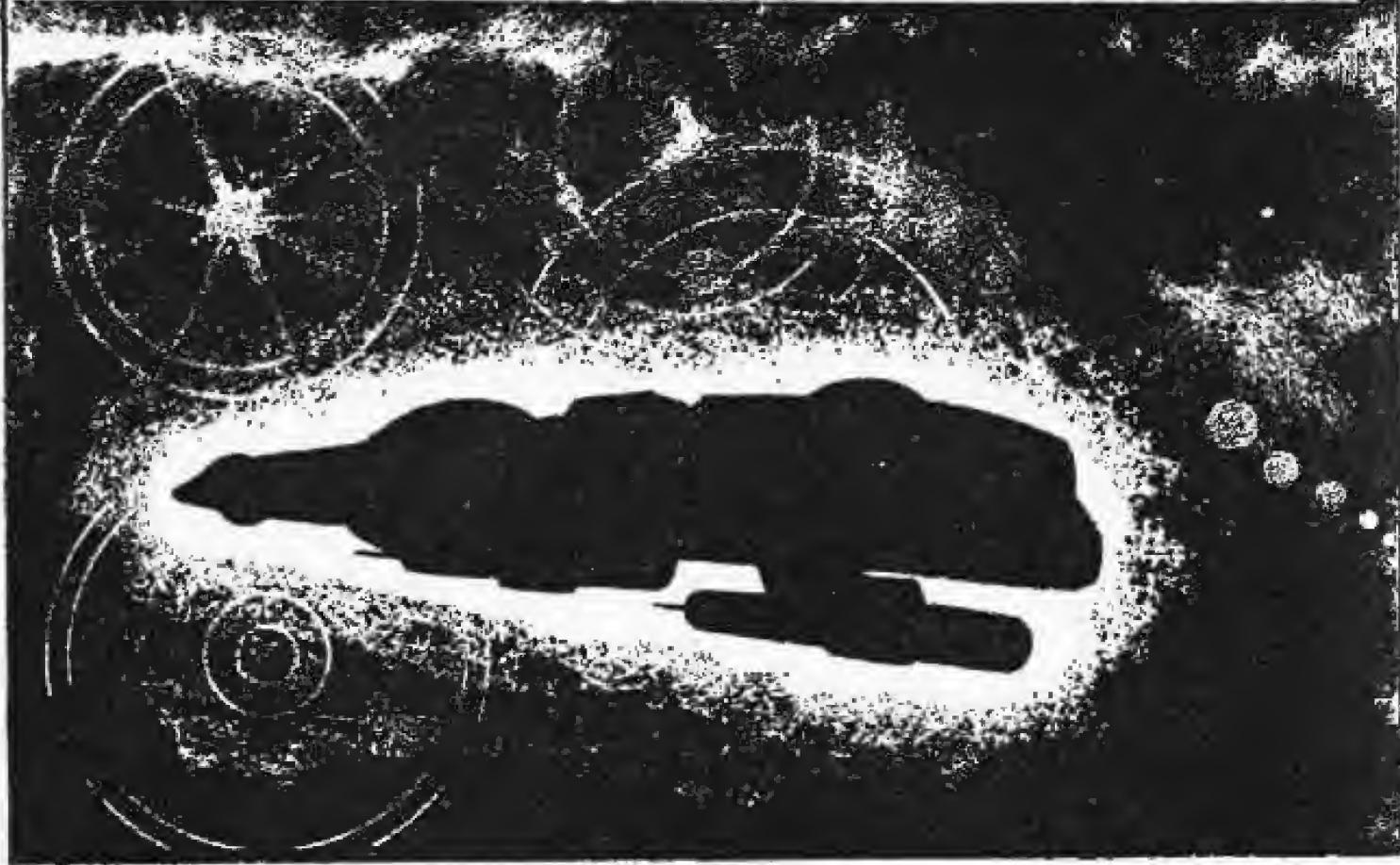


WE DID IT!

R102 DID IT. NOT ONLY EQUIPPED WITH HYPERDRIVE, BUT WITH AN ENERGY SCREEN AS WELL. THE EARTHMEN CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO BUILD SHIPS.



AS THE GREAT SHIP LEAPT ACROSS THE LIGHT YEARS CONSCIOUSNESS DESERTED THE CREW.



FORTY NINE UNITS LATER—



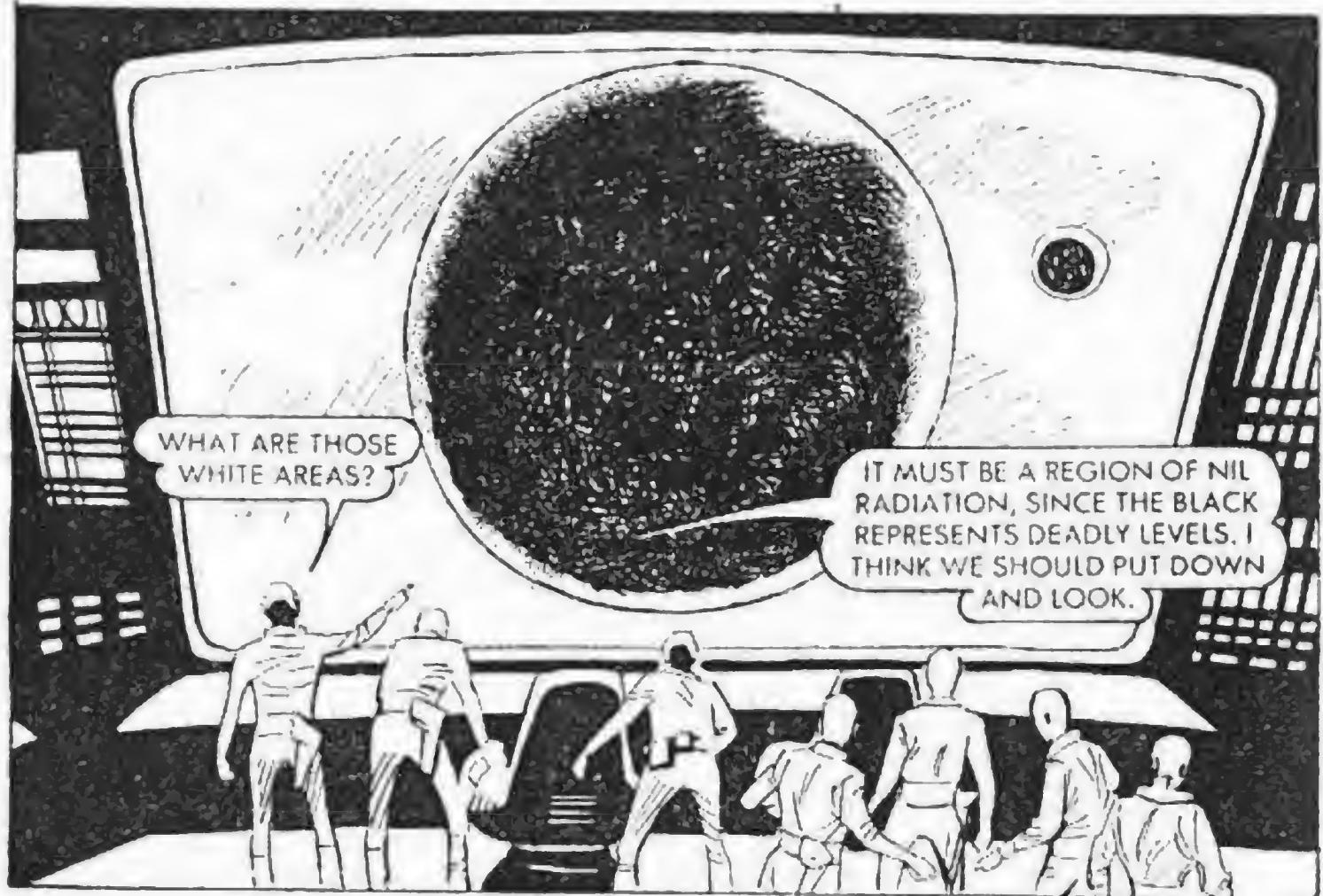


ALL WE CAN DO IS TAKE MORE DETAILED SCANS.
R102, GIVE US A RONTGEN REPRESENTATION OF
RADIOACTIVITY ON THE PLANET.



WHAT ARE THOSE
WHITE AREAS?

IT MUST BE A REGION OF NIL
RADIATION, SINCE THE BLACK
REPRESENTS DEADLY LEVELS. I
THINK WE SHOULD PUT DOWN
AND LOOK.



R102 WAS GUIDED IN TO LAND AT CO-ORDINATES 56.5° N, 3° W.







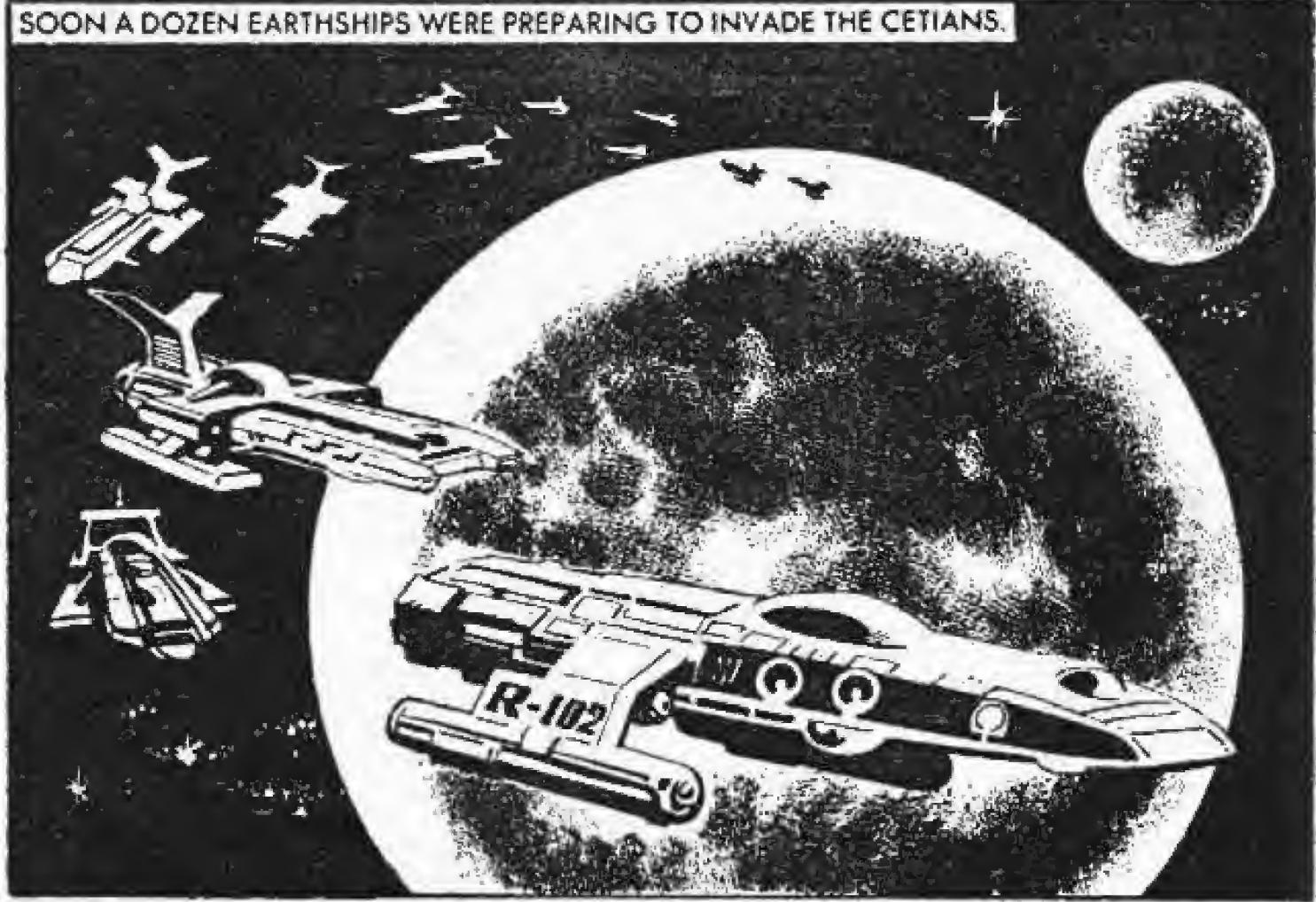
WELCOME TO EARTH. I AM TONINUS. I AM TO TELL ALL VISITORS OF THE DOWNFALL OF EARTH AND HER EMPIRE. WHEN THE GALACTIC EMPIRE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT, CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT ON EARTH — OPPOSING FACTIONS WANTED CONTROL OF THE GALAXY.

THE PLANET WAS SO RAVAGED BY THE WAR THAT IT BECAME UNINHABITABLE. THE SURVIVORS AGREED A PEACE, AND EMIGRATED, LEAVING BEHIND ALL THE WEAPONS THAT HAD BEEN THE CAUSE OF THE CATASTROPHE. YOU ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THESE PEOPLE.





SOON A DOZEN EARTHSHIPS WERE PREPARING TO INVADE THE CETIANS.

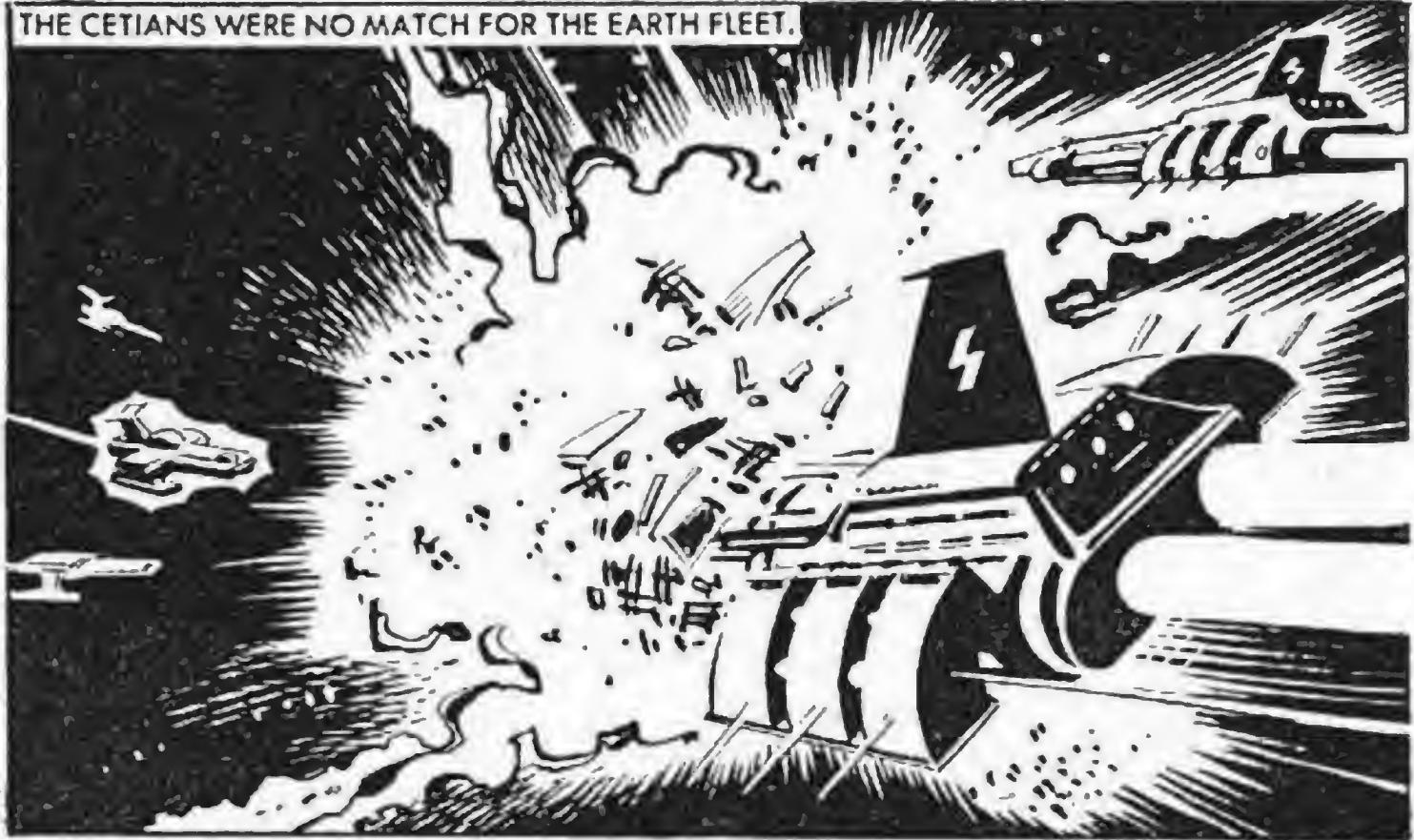


CONFIRM YOUR COURSE AND PREPARE FOR HYPERDRIVE. IS YOUR JOB CLEAR, MIK?





THE CETIANS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE EARTH FLEET.



THE CETIAN HIVE-CITIES FELL TO THE MIGHT AND ANGER OF THE EARTH PEOPLE.



SOLA'S FIRST TASK WAS TO FREE THE MANY ALLIED FEDERATION PRISONERS.



WITH THE CETUS MILITARY MACHINE IN RUINS, THE EARTH SQUADRON TURNED AWAY FROM THE DEFEATED PLANET.



SOLA, THIS IS MIK. EVERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED — WE'VE DOZENS OF SHIPS. ALLIED COMMAND SAYS WE HAVE TO ASSEMBLE IN ORBIT AROUND GLAN.



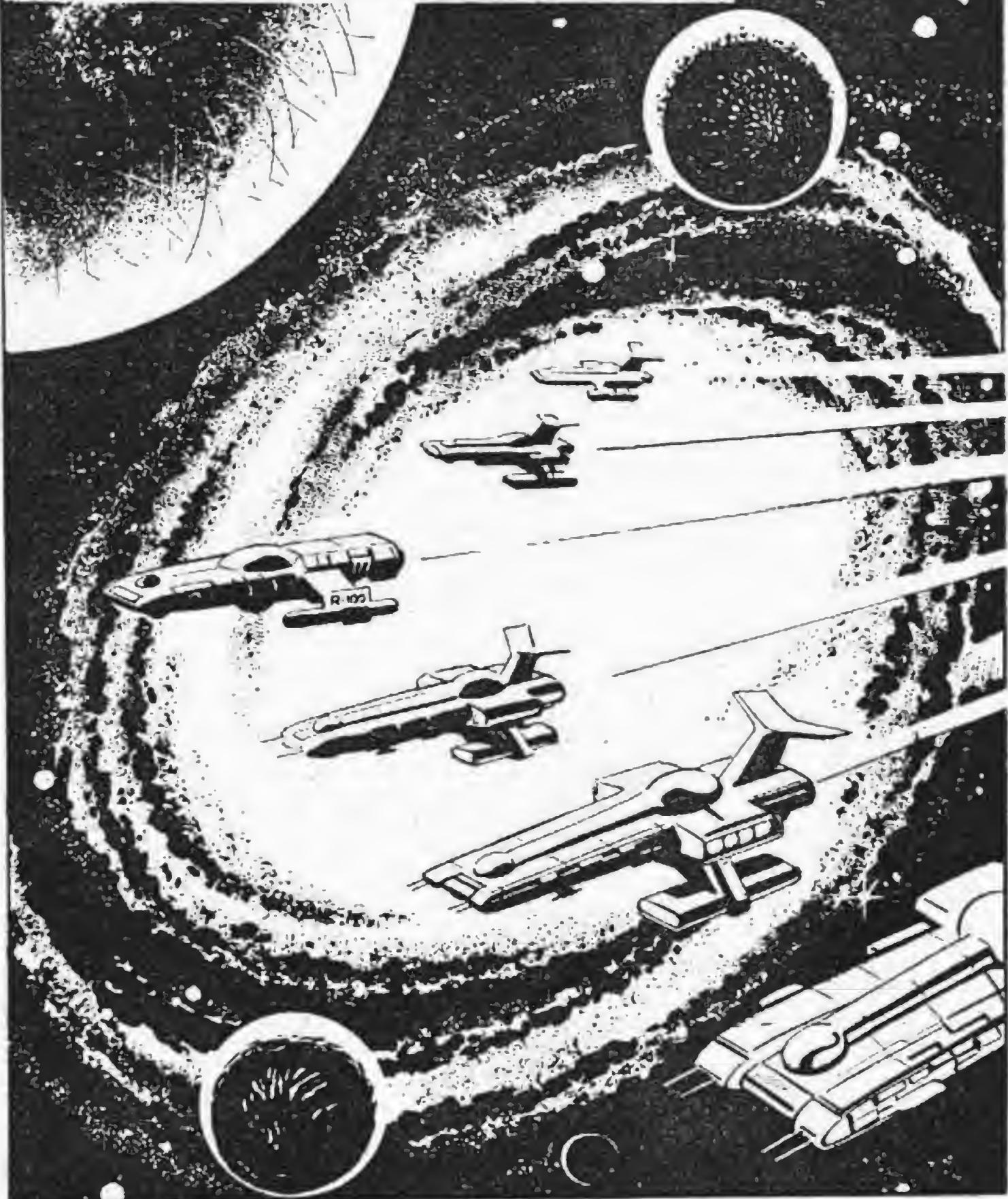
WHY? IT'D BE MUCH BETTER TO USE THEM TO HUNT DOWN REMAINING CETIAN SHIPS AND BASES.

THAT'LL BE DONE IN DUE COURSE. ALLIED COMMAND WANTS US TO ACT AS MESSENGERS TO THE GALAXY — WE'RE GOING TO RE-ESTABLISH THE EMPIRE — BEGINNING WITH EARTH.



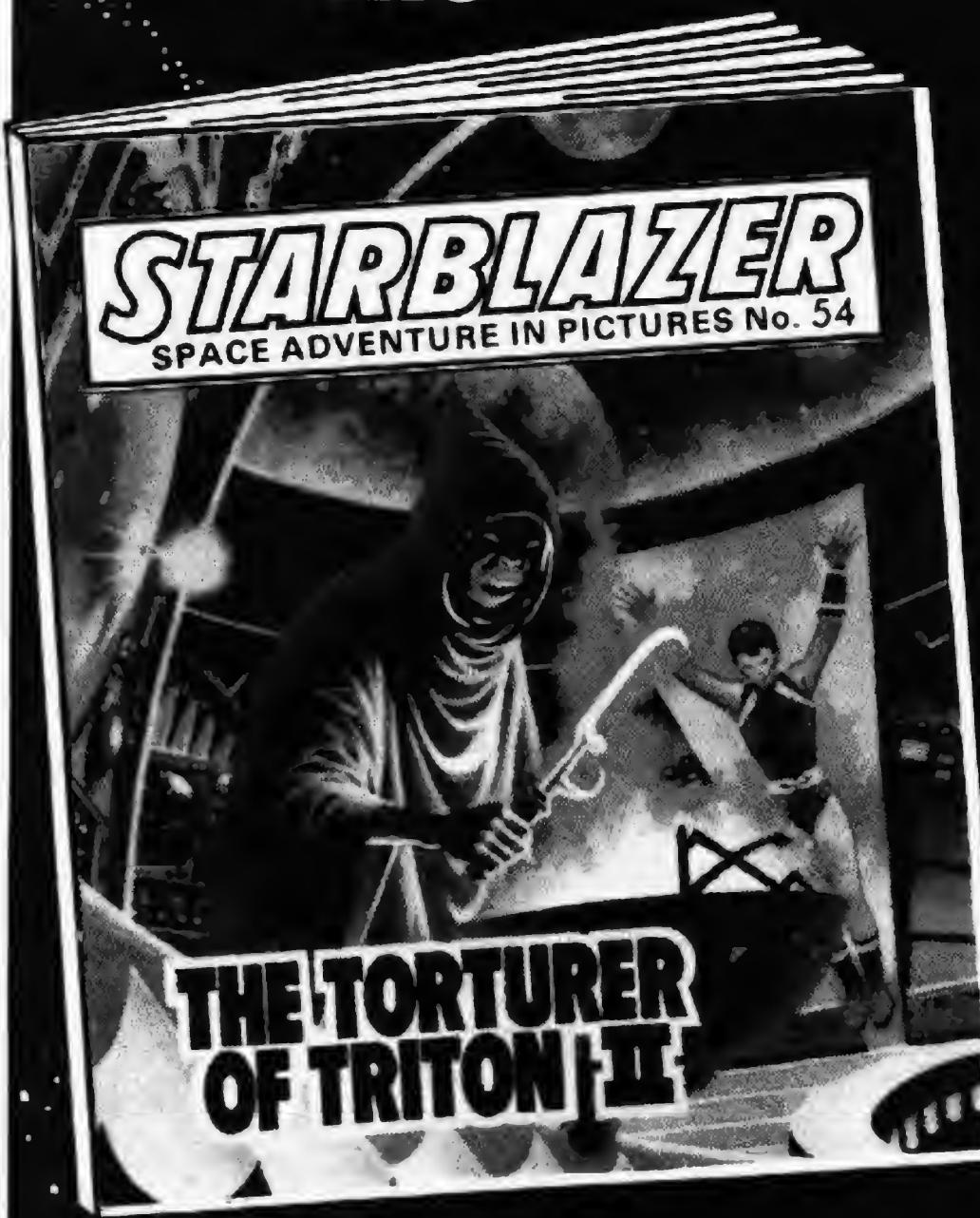
I'M ALL FOR THAT! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? ON, TO GLAN, AND THE EMPIRE!

AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS AWAY FROM A DEVASTATED EARTH, ALLIED SHIPS RETURNED TO BEGIN THE SLOW PROCESS OF REBUILDING THE EMPIRE.



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NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS



DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH

IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!

STARBLAZERS EARTH SATELLITES 4

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NASA'S Biosatellites were a series of recoverable biological experiment carriers, first launched in 1966. Bios 3, launched in 1969, carried a space monkey, Bonny, into orbit. The craft's cabin was pressurised with a 80% nitrogen and 20% oxygen atmosphere. Studies were made of Bonny's memory and eye to hand co-ordination. The illustration shows Bios being checked before launch.